IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 12, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to FIG. 4, a flowchart of a method according to an embodiment of the invention is shown. The method is performed by each node within a broadcast environment. In 400, a packet, for example, a packet of data, is received at the node for transmission therefrom, through the link or network coupling all the nodes, or from an application running on the node. In 402, a virtual clock is reset to zero. The virtual clock is a clock maintained by each node within the network. In this embodiment, ~~I~~it is reset only once each time a packet is received. The virtual clock is written as $v_i(t)$, where t is actual, physical time—for example, as maintained by a real-time clock within the node—and I specifies the node. Thus, the resetting of the virtual clock to zero in 402 is written as $v_i(t) = 0$.

A1

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 14, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is noted that because of the manner in which the start tags and the virtual clock are determined, B_i is non-negative. However, if the start tag and the virtual clock are identical, B_i may become equal to zero. To avoid this, in one embodiment, B_i is further modified as

$$B_i = B_i + X,$$

where X is uniformly distributed in [1, β] where β, the *Backoff_Window*, is a positive integer. This further reduces the probability of back-off intervals of two nodes counting down to zero at the same time. ~~,~~In 408 as well ~~as~~ the *back-off counter* is reset to zero after this step is performed~~,~~.

A2